

SESSION OF 2002

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 656

As Amended by Senate Committee on Commerce

Brief*

SB 656, as amended, creates the Senior Pharmacy Plus Act, to provide financial assistance to eligible Kansas residents for the purchase of prescription drugs through the Department on Aging. The program is funded with a transfer of \$24,000,000 from the Senior Services Trust, to be spent in increments of \$8,000,000 over three years, with a \$12,000,000 match in federal funds each year.

Eligibility for the program is as follows: an individual must be 65 or older, have an income of not more than 200 percent of the federal poverty level for a one or two-person household, not qualify for any other local, state, or federal prescription drug program or be covered by private insurance or reimbursement programs; and has not cancelled a prescription drug program within six months of applying for this program.

The Secretary of Aging is prohibited from creating a waiting list for this program. The Secretary is instead allowed to modify the maximum benefit, reduce income eligibility levels, increase the co-payment level, or modify the open enrollment period to address the need. The Secretary is also allowed to negotiate contracts or agreements to implement the program and to receive matching funds for the program.

Background

The Department on Aging spoke in support of the bill, as well as the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, the Kansas Area Agencies on Aging Association, and the American Association of Retired Persons Kansas Chapter. There were no opponents to the bill.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/cgi-bin/fulltext/bills.cgi>

The Budget Division indicated that the bill would increase expenditures \$20.0 million in FYs 2003, 2004, and 2005, with \$8.0 million annually from state funds.